Chapter 4
SOCIOPOLITICAL PROFILE

This chapter presents an overview of the sociopolitical structure of Olango Island and its satellite islets, their demography, the people and their way of life, and the social services available to them. This information is important in the formulation of a management plan for the island. More specific details of each *barangay* are given based on the survey results of the PCRA conducted in 1998.

POLITICAL/ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARIES

Olango and its satellite islets are under the jurisdiction of 2 local government units (LGUs), namely, the City of Lapu-Lapu and the Municipality of Cordova. The main island of Olango is composed of 8 *barangays* as well as the island *barangays* of Pangan-an and Caohagan, which are under the administration of Lapu-Lapu City. Gilutongan and Nalusuan Islands both within Barangay Gilutongan, are under the jurisdiction of the Municipality of Cordova. Compared to many municipalities of Cebu Province, Olango Island is larger both in terms of area and population. This may be one reason why there have been proposals by some government officials and politicians to transform Olango Island and its satellite islets into a separate municipality (Santos *et al*. 1997a).

Although the main island of Olango is classified as an "urban area" because of its political setup, Remedio and Olofson (1988a) classify Olango Island as an overcrowded rural island with superficial urban characteristics and has been created by conscientious city government officials to bring it into the city administration and service network.

The City of Lapu-Lapu is represented on the main island of Olango through a "mini city hall", which is currently headed by an Officer-in-Charge whose main function is to

ensure that government projects, such as road maintenance, are being implemented, and that appropriate licensing fees and taxes are collected. Most government works and services (i.e., land assessment, income tax collection, civil registry, etc.) are conducted on the "mainland" of Mactan Island where the seat of the city government is located. This current arrangement illustrates that politically, Olango is very much dependent on the mainland for these public services.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population size, density, distribution

Olango and its satellite islets had a total population of 21,928, composed of 4,382 households in 1995 (NSO 1995). The average population density of Olango is 34.2 individuals per ha or 3,420 per km^2, with Gilutongan Island having the highest density of all the *barangays* at 96.8 individuals per ha (Table 4.1).

Table 4.1 Population, households, and area of the *barangays* of Olango Island and its satellite islets (NSO 1995 and City Health Department, Lapu-Lapu City).

Barangays	Land area (ha)	No. of households	Total population	City health population	Population density (per ha)
Cordova					
Gilutongan Island (including Nalusuan Island)	15.3	202	1,061	1,102	97
Lapu-lapu City					
Baring	91.4	422	2,393	2,686	22
Caohagan Is.	4.5	67	342	340	66
Caw-oy	42.3	199	1,002	1,218	35
Pangan-an Is.	46.1	251	1,229	1,677	24
Sabang	195.3	716	3,920	4,065	19
Santa Rosa	69.5	457	2,392	2,475	35
San Vicente	215.8	445	2,409	2,702	11
Talima	168.3	591	3,310	3,984	25
Tingo	96.3	454	2,449	2,876	26
Tungasan	86.2	271	1,421	1,686	17
Total/Average	**1,031**	**4,075**	**21,928**	**24,811**	**280**

Growth Rate

A 1990 survey by Flieger (1994) revealed that all *barangays* in Olango have a fertility rate that is above average for Cebu province (0.575) in terms of child/woman ratio, with Tungasan and Talima as the most fertile *barangays* in Lapu-Lapu City for that year. In terms of population growth, between 1980 and 1990, the same source revealed that none of the *barangays* exhibited high population growth due to migration. There was a significant deficit of young adults, since many left the island for Mactan, Cebu, or Manila. Only Barangays Talima and Baring were above the provincial average growth of between 25 and 30 percent for this 10-year period respectively with both *barangays* showing no net migration.

Household Information

Based on a 1988 household survey involving 10 percent of Olango's total population sampled, all household dwellings were classified as "single family houses", 86 percent of which are nuclear families, and 14 percent are extended. The inclusion of a grandparent or grandchild is the most common mode of extension (Remedio and Olofson 1988b).

Age and Gender Composition

Data gathered by the Lapu-Lapu City health workers in 1997 showed that gender composition in Olango Island is divided almost equally between the 2 sexes. This finding coincided with that of Remedio and Olofson (1988b), in which there were 98.54 males for every 100 females. The population of Olango is dominated by young adults with age ranging from 14 to 49 years old (Figure 4.1). This is followed by those whose age range is 14 years and below. Next are those belonging to the age range of 50 to 65 followed by the elderly, 65 and above. These data indicate that the majority of the population in Olango and its satellite islets belong to the workforce class and youth.

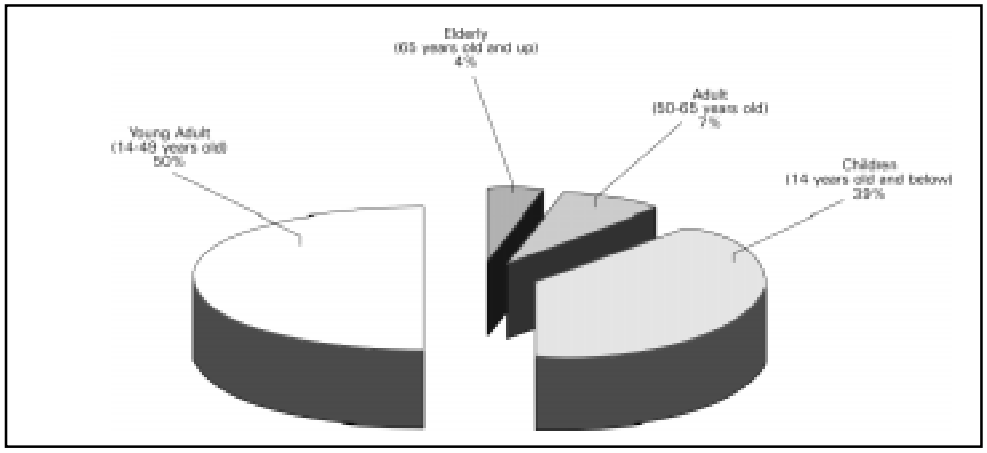

Figure 4.1. Population age structure in Olango Island and its satellite islets (Olango Health Profile 1997; Remedio and Olofson 1988b).

Education

The educational level of Olango residents can be considered typical of many of the rural areas of the Philippines. Elementary schools are found in all *barangays* and 4 high schools operating in 4 *barangays*. At present, there are no college or vocational courses being offered in the island.

Remedio and Olofson (1988b) reported a very low number of professional and technically trained individuals among the islanders and the median in terms of years of schooling is in the elementary level. Recent interviews with 172 respondents by SUML (1997) showed no improvement from 1988 in which 10.5 percent of the respondents had no formal schooling. While 70 percent were able to attend some elementary school, only

23 percent of these respondents finished grade 6, 15 percent reached high school, and 2.3 percent attended college. Only 1 percent of those interviewed had vocational education (Figure 4.2). Barangays Caw-oy and Tungasan have the highest number of respondents with no formal education or do not have any schooling.

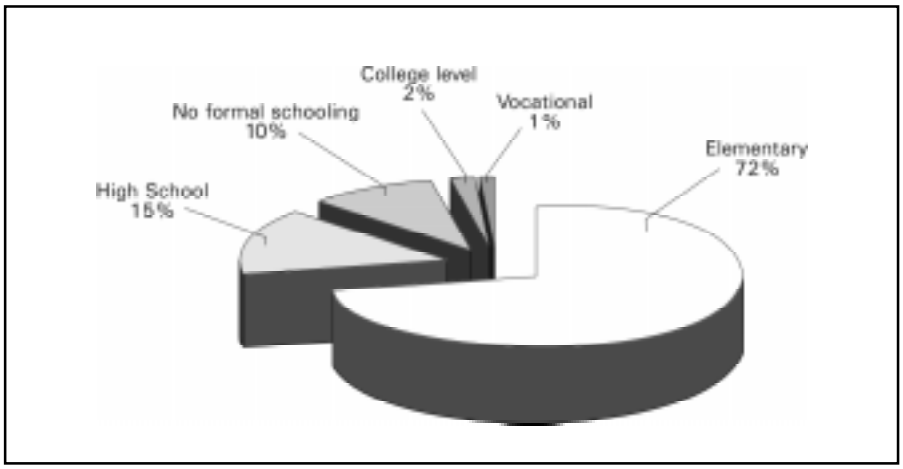

Figure 4.2. Educational profile of Olango Island and its satellite islets (Olango Health Profile 1997; Remedio and Olofson 1988b).

In contrast, data from the PCRA survey (Table 4.2) showed an improvement in the level of education among the islanders today compared to the time of their grandparents and parents. The majority of PCRA participants finished high school, but still very few reached college. This improvement is attributed to the establishment of 3 public high schools with 1 offering evening classes. College education is still beyond the reach of most Olango residents due to the distance to be travelled, high tuition fees, and other expenses. Instead, males go fishing with their fathers and females work as domestic helpers outside the island.

Table 4.2. Educational attainment in Olango Island (CRMP 1998).

Barangay	Educational attainment
Baring	Elem - 30%; H.S. - 60%; Coll. - 10%
Caohagan	Elem - old gen. 30%; H.S. - young gen. 70%
Caw-oy	Elem - elderly; H.S. level - old. gen.; H.S. grad. - youth
Gilutongan	Elem grad.- 5%; elem level - 40%; H.S. grad. - 5%; H.S. level - 30%; Coll grad - 10%; Coll. Level - 10%
Pangan-an	Elem - elderly and older gen.; H.S. - youth
Sabang	Elem - elderly 10%; H.S. - old. gen. 20%; Coll. - youth 70%
San Vicente	Elem - elderly; H.S. level - old. gen.; H.S. grad. - youth
Santa Rosa	Elem - 20%; H.S. - 35%; Coll. - 25%; Prof. - 20%
Talima	Elem - 50%; H.S. - 35%; Coll. - 15%
Tingo	Elem - 20%; H.S. - 70%; Coll. - 10%
Tungasan	Elem - elderly 10%; H.S. - old. gen. 20%; Coll. - youth 65%; Prof.- 5%

Livelihood and Annual Income

The traditional occupations of Olango residents are fishing and coastal-related activities such as shellcraft, aquarium fish collection, boat operations, and seaweed farming (Remedio and Olofson 1988b; SUML 1997; CRMP 1998). Other sources of income include rainfed farming, personnel services, livestock raising, small enterprise (*sari-sari* store) and, recently, various types of employment from tourism activities (Table 4.3).

Table 4.3. Livelihood activities in Olango Island and its satellite islets (CRMP 1998).

Barangay	Livelihood
Baring	Fishing, shellcraft, boat ferry service, labor
Caohagan	Fishing, quilting, tourist vending, shellcraft
Caw-oy	Fishing, shellcraft, farming
Gilutongan	Seaweed (*guso*) culture, tourist vending, fishing, shellcraft
Pangan-an	Fishing, *sari-sari* store, shellcraft
Sabang	Fishing, shellcraft
Santa Rosa	Fishing - 40%, shellcraft - 20%, govt. employee - 5%, farmer - 5%, boatman - 3%, laborer - 6%, business - 10%, driver - 11%
Tingo	Fishing (*dayo*) and local - 60%, shellcraft, fish vending, mat weaving, gleaning, *karenderia* - 4%
Tungasan	Fishing, shellcraft, farmer, *sari-sari* store

Remedio and Olofson (1988b) reported that about 76 percent of surveyed incomes were at or below the poverty threshold of PhP4,000 per month, with the median annual household income also well below the poverty threshold. Presented in Table 4.4 is the livelihood income range of each *barangay* gathered by SUML in 1997. The survey found that income derived from fishing is lower compared to that from salaries, business, and skilled labor (Figure 4.3).

Table 4.4. Overall income distribution (%) of some respondents in Olango Island and its satellite islets. Values in parenthesis are number of respondents (SUML 1997).

Monthly income range (PhP)	Baring (N = 27)	Caohagan (N = 6)	Caw-oy (N = 5)	Gilutongan (N = 36)	Pangan-an (N = 41)	Sabang (N = 30)	Tingo (N = 37)	Tungasan (N = 3)
< 500	12	60	20	28	33	27	23	40
501 – 1,000	18	30	80	33	23	19	32	20
1,001 – 2,000	1	10		28	33	23	16	20
2,001 – 3,000	21			25	77	19	68	20
3,001 – 4,000	6			55	38	39	68	
4,001 – 5,000	3			28		39	91	
> 5,000	3			28		39	68	

US$1 = PhP26 in 1997.

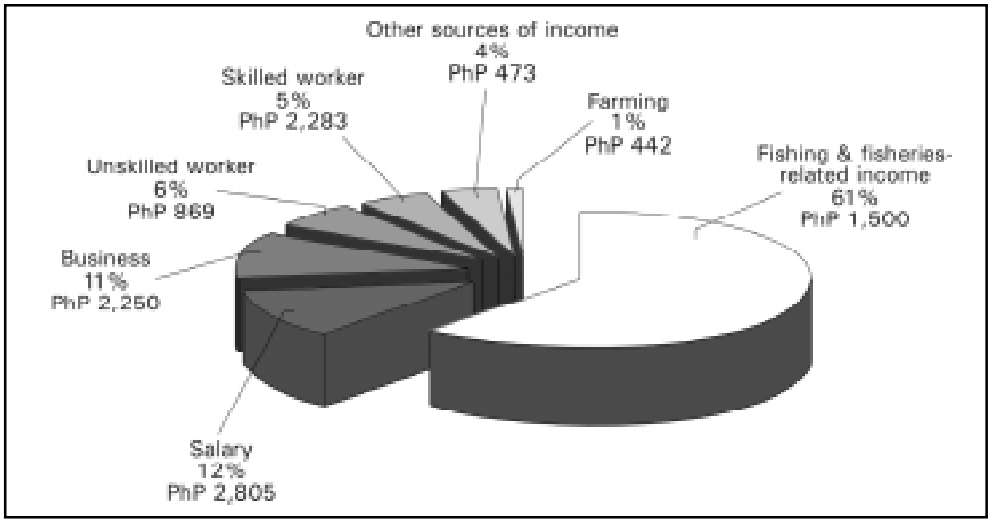

Figure 4.3. Monthly average income (in 1997 pesos) of some *barangays* in Olango Island and its satellite islets (SUML 1997).

OTHER ASSETS AND HOUSEHOLD CONVENIENCES

Acquisition of furniture (i.e., living room and dining set) can be considered an economic indicator, as the gradual acquisition of these items is parallel to an increase in income. At least 20 percent of the residents surveyed have 1 piece of furniture (Figure 4.4). The possession of an audio appliance is perceived to be a necessity rather than a luxury in most homes. Nineteen percent have radios, stereos, karaokes, and cassette players.

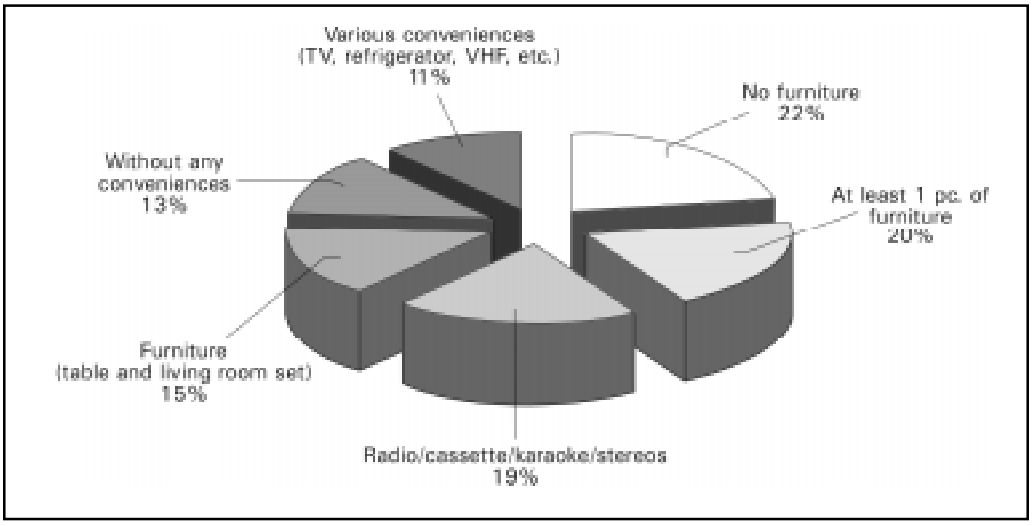

Figure 4.4. Household conveniences profile of Olango Island and its satellite islets (modified from SUML 1997).

Apart from listening to news and weather forecast, the audio appliances are also a common source of entertainment (SUML 1997). Aside from radios, 13 percent have various appliances, such as refrigerator, TV, and VCR, etc., while 15 percent are without such conveniences.

Agricultural Land and Livestock/Poultry Ownership

In Olango Island, most agricultural lots are under 1 ha in average size (Remedio and Olofson 1988b). There is inequality in landholdings; the top 25 percent of the households own 73 percent of the land while the bottom 25 percent are landless. The majority of those who farm, however, do own their respective lands. But in Barangays Tingo, Baring, Pangan-an, and Gilutongan Island, ownership of agricultural land is non-existent.

Results of the 1998 PCRA showed that 80 to 90 percent of the surveyed participants do not own land. A few prominent families in the area own most of the lands, including wealthy outsiders who have developed some areas into beach resorts or vacation houses. Of the 11 *barangays*, only the residents of Barangays Tungasan and Caw-oy own their land (Table 4.6). This percentage is higher compared to the data from the SUML (1997) study where of the 188 respondents, only 59 percent owned their residential lot, 89 percent owned their house, and 11 percent are either renting or staying with relatives.

Table 4.5. House construction materials in Olango Island and its satellite islets (CRMP 1998).

Barangay	House type
Baring	Concrete - 30%, "*nipa*" - 70%
Caohagan	Coco lumber with GI, concrete
Caw-oy	Coco lumber with GI, concrete
Gilutongan	Coco lumber with GI, concrete
Pangan-an	Coco lumber with GI, "*nipa*", "*amakan*"
Sabang	Concrete, "*nipa*"
San Vicente	Coco lumber with GI, concrete, "*amakan*"
Santa Rosa	Concrete - 52%, "*nipa*" - 48%
Talima	Coco lumber with GI - 70%, concrete - 15%, "*nipa*" - 15%
Tingo	Semi-concrete - 75%, "*nipa*" - 25%
Tungasan	Semi-concrete, "*nipa*"

Only 2 agricultural crops predominate, namely cassava and corn, which are seasonally grown for household consumption and are rarely sold (Remedio and Olofson 1988b). Half of the population are into livestock or poultry raising.

Settlements (Type and Ownership)

The majority of the Olango population live under very basic housing conditions with no running water or bathroom facilities. Fifty-four percent of the houses are constructed from light materials and 35.4 percent are constructed from semi-permanent materials, such as

bamboo, coco lumber, and *nipa* thatch structures. There are also a number of homes constructed of more permanent materials, such as concrete and wood with corrugated iron roofing (Table 4.5 and Figure 4.5A).

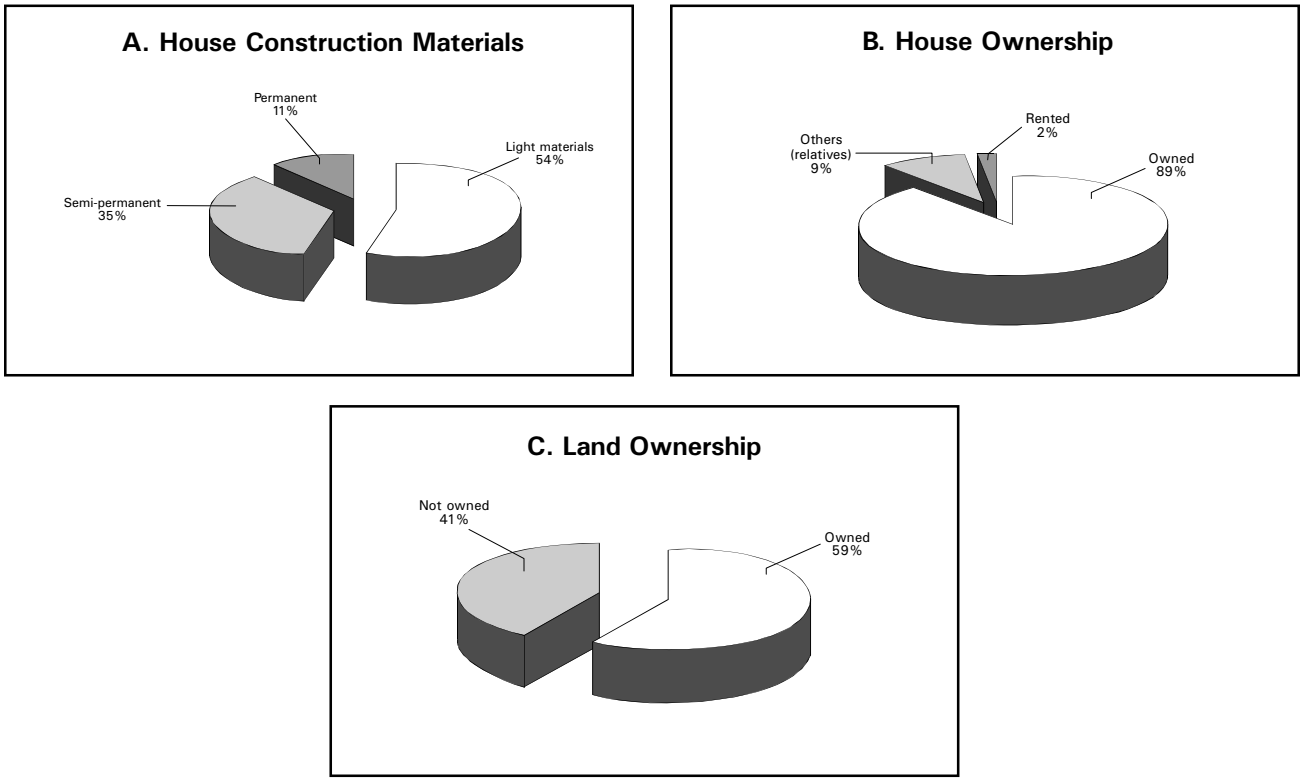

Figure 4.5. Settlement type profile: A. house construction materials, B. house ownership, and C. land ownership in Olango Island (modified from SUML 1997).

In addition to a sleeping room, most houses have a living/dining area and cooking is often done on lean structures outside. Bathing is by 'dip and pour' with no running water and again mostly done outside the house. The PCRA reported that only about 18 percent of the households in Olango have water sealed toilet facilities. Most residents use the shallow seas or mudflats for defecating (Table 4.6).

HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE

Olango islanders are fortunate in terms of health care since most of the basic health services of the city government of Lapu-Lapu City are available to them. This includes health centers in all *barangays* and a 10-bed capacity hospital (Santa Rosa Hospital) located at Barangay Santa Rosa (Amores 1988). The current government medical personnel include 2 doctors, 2 nurses, 2 midwives, and 1 medical technician. For serious medical conditions, Olango residents go to Lapu-Lapu Hospital or Vicente Sotto Memorial Hospital (CRMP

1998). Almost all of the health programs of the government are being implemented in the island. The common illnesses among Olango residents vary with age. Children usually catch colds, fever, and diarrhea while the women's major complaints are fever, cough, and headaches. Some seek medication for arthritis, rheumatism, and tuberculosis (Table 4.7).

Table 4.6. Land and toilet facilities ownership in Olango Island and its satellite islets (CRMP 1998).

Barangay	Land ownership (%)	Toilet facilities ownership (%)
Baring	80 - landless; 20 - owned	30
Caohagan	95 - outsider; 5 - local	4
Caw-oy	majority own the lot	10
Gilutongan	70 - outsider (resort); 30 - local	3
Pangan-an	90 - outsider; 10 - local	10
Sabang	majority have no lot	30
San Vicente	80 - outsider; 15 1fam.(locals)	6
Santa Rosa	prominent families	40
Talima	5 prominent families	20
Tingo	majority have no lot, owned by few locals	30
Tungasan	75 - local; 25 - outsider	12

Table 4.7. Common health problems among children, adults, and elderly in Olango Island and its satellite islets (CRMP 1998).

Barangay	Health-related sickness
Baring	Children - cough, colds, fever; Women - cough, colds, fever; Elderly - T.B., arthritis, asthma, high blood
Caohagan	Children - cough, colds, fever, worm, diarrhea; Women - gas pains, headache; Elderly - arthritis
Caw-oy	Children - fever, measles, diarrhea; Women - fever, cough; Elderly - arthritis, rheumatism
Gilutongan	Children - fever, measles, diarrhea; Women - fever, death by birth; Elderly - rheumatism and gas pains
Pangan-an	Children - cough, colds, diarrhea; Women - asthma; Elderly - T.B., arthritis, asthma
Sabang	All - cough, fever
San Vicente	Children - asthma, diarrhea, fever; Women - arthritis, muscle pains; Elderly - arthritis, asthma
Santa Rosa	Children - cough, colds, diarrhea; Women - anemia, hypertension, gas pains; Elderly - heart failure, ulcer
Talima	Children - cough, colds, diarrhea; Women - cough, headache, goiter; Elderly - arthritis, hypertension, diabetes
Tingo	Children - cough, malnourished, fever; Women - cough, fever; Elderly - T.B., arthritis
Tungasan	Children - cough, colds, fever, diarrhea; Women - cough, colds, fever; Elderly - T.B.

Mortality rate among Olango residents is low with pneumonia as the leading cause of death (29 percent) followed by heart disease (18 percent) (Figure 4.6A). Other common illnesses include acute respiratory infections (39 percent), skin problems (17 percent), and nutritional deficiency (15 percent) (Figure 4.6B).

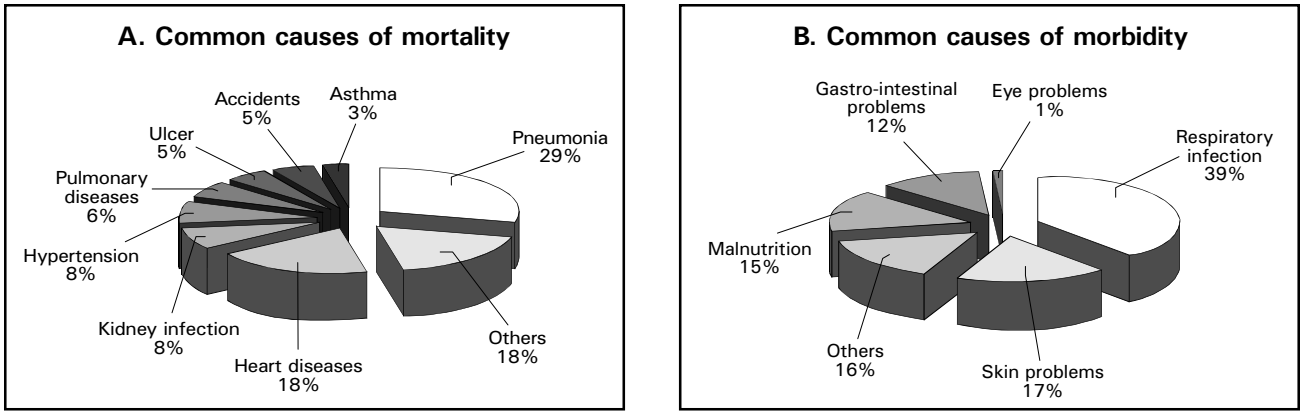

Figure 4.6. Health profile: Common causes of mortality and morbidity in Olango Island and its satellite islets (DOH-7 1997; CRMP 1998).

PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Freshwater Resources

Olango has 2 major freshwater lenses, 1 in Barangay Talima, and the other in Barangay Santa Rosa (Chapter 2, Figure 2.1). Both are separated by a brackish water zone believed to have been connected before (Olofson 1992). Olango residents perceived that both fresh and brackish water wells are potable. Only 13 percent of Olango households own a well while 87 percent share with neighboring wells. Private and public water taps and water vendors from wells without pumps are the other major sources of residential water. Five of the 11 *barangays* depend on commercial water delivery at PhP3 per container (Table 4.8).

Table 4.8. Water sources used in Olango Island and its satellite islets (CRMP 1998).

Barangay	Water sources (distance scale from wells)
Baring	Talima commercial water delivery - P3/container, laundry use (1 km)
Caohagan	Cordova, Marigondon - P10/container (10 km), rain (20 m) - 4-5 containers/day family use
Caw-oy	Talima commercial water delivery - P3/container, deep well - P1/container (2 km), "*matabana*"or cistern
Gilutongan	Cordova, Maribago - P3/container (10 km), Island – P10/container, rain (20 m)
Pangan-an	Rain, brackish well - P5/container (20 m), P10/container- during summer (20 km)
Sabang	Talima commercial water delivery - P3/container, brackish well - laundry use (5 m)
San Vicente	Sta. Rosa deep well - P1/container (30 m)
Santa Rosa	Private deep well - 30 (3 to 5 m), non-owners (30 m to 1 km)
Talima	Private deep well - 67 (3 to 5 m), non-owners (30 m to 1 km)
Tingo	Talima commercial water delivery - P3/container, deep well - P1/container (2 km)
Tungasan	Talima commercial water delivery - P3/container, brackish well - laundry use (5 m)

In Barangay Talima, there are 3 commercial water stations, which supply approximately 1,970, 5-gal or 20-L containers per day. Another commercial water station in Barangay San Vicente is a solar-powered pump run as a cooperative (San Vicente Water Association) organized by the USC-WRC. Remedio and Olofson (1988a) cited that rainwater is not included as a major water source, especially during rainy season even if it is perfectly

potable. This is no longer true; today, many households have "*matabana*" or cisterns to collect rainwater for cooking, bathing, and washing.

Communication

Communication within Olango Island is mostly by radio transceivers since each *barangay* has been provided with its own base radios. But recently, it has become possible to communicate by cellular phone and even land-based telephone using microwave technology. Cellular phone signal is available in almost all parts of the island. A telecommunication company (ISLACOM) has just installed a land-based telephone in one of the private houses in Barangay Caw-oy. Household communication systems are not yet widely used, as these are expensive for the islanders.

Road Network and Transport Facility

A road network connects all *barangays* on the main island of Olango. More than 50 percent of these roads are paved, while the remaining are gravel or earth surface. The road network is approximately 21 km long, of which over 10.5 km are cemented (Table 4.9). The smaller satellite islets, except Pangan-an, have no clearly delineated road networks. The main mode of transportation is the motorized tricycle with the main terminal located in Santa Rosa wharf. A chartered trip or "*pakyaw*", to any *barangay* in Olango costs about PhP50 to 60.

Table 4.9. Road profile of Olango Island and its satellite islets (Flores 1997 with slight modification).

Barangay	Total (km)	Road density (km per 1,000 individuals)	Concrete pavement (in km)
Baring	3.6	1.4	1.3
Caw-oy	0.7	0.6	0
Gilutongan	3.2	0.9	0.3
Sabang	5.3	1.1	4.0
San Vicente	3.0	0.8	1.4
Santa Rosa	2.2	0.8	1.5
Talima	3.0	1.9	0.3
Tingo	None		1.8
Tungasan	None		0
Total	**20.9**	**6.6**	**10.6**

Air Transport Facility

There is no air transport facility located in Olango Island. However, the Mactan-Cebu International Airport, the country's second busiest international and domestic airport, is only about 10 km away from Olango's western coastline. The approximate time to reach the airport by boat and land is about an hour, which enhances Olango's potential as a tourist destination.

Sea Transport Facility

The Santa Rosa Wharf is the main docking station for outrigger pumpboats ferrying passengers and cargo to and from Olango and Mactan Islands. Boats generally leave every 30 minutes from 5:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Another docking station without any wharf is found in Barangay Baring for the northern *barangays*. Boats typically leave every 30 minutes to Punta Engaño wharf on Mactan Island and back. These normal sea transport schedules may be disrupted during periods of strong winds and rough seas.

Electricity

Electric power is supplied by the National Power Corporation (NAPOCOR) and is distributed by the Mactan Electric Company (MECO). There are 2 generators encased in 1 powerhouse that was built by NAPOCOR in 1994 for Olango Island. Construction is underway for housing another generator. In 1997, the total number of households with electricity was 555, Barangay Santa Rosa had the most number of households served (Table 4.10). Electricity in Olango Island is available for 12 hours only from 12:00 noon to 12:00 midnight; in the satellite islets, generators or kerosene lamps are used for lighting. Recently, in Pangan-an Island, a solar-powered generator using 1,000 m^2 of solar panels, was completed under a Belgium-funded project making Pangan-an the first island in the Philippines powered solely by solar energy.

Table 4.10. Number of households serviced by MECO in Olango Island and its satellite islets (CRMP 1997).

Barangay	Total households	MECO-served	Remarks
Baring	414	125	MECO
Caohagan	50	40	MECO
Caw-oy	189	55	MECO
Gilutongan	151	0	Kerosene, Petromax, etc.
Pangan-an	247	0	Generator
Sabang	627	0	MECO
San Vicente	564	49	MECO
Santa Rosa	845	73	MECO
Talima	593	54	MECO
Tingo	442	138	MECO
Tungasan	260	21	MECO
Total	**4,382**	**555**	

SUMMARY

Sociopolitically, Olango Island and its satellite islets are very much dependent on Lapu-lapu City and the Municipality of Cordova. For instance, their annual budget allocations, passage of laws, and ordinances have to be decided by the respective city and municipal councils. This is seen by most of the islanders as a hindrance in improving the island's infrastructure and availability of public services. While most of the basic social services are already in place in Olango Island, there is still much to be desired as its population is growing and their needs are expanding. The level and access to these public services and infrastructure vary among different parts of the island, particularly on the smaller islets.

In addition, planning and management of the 920-ha OIWS is being coordinated by DENR Region 7 and the OIWS Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) as this area is under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS).